

To: Arcaute, Francisco[Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov]
From: Brett Chase
Sent: Wed 4/23/2014 4:14:46 PM
Subject: Re: EPA questions

Francisco -

I'm requesting an interview with Susan Hedman about the oversight of the BP refinery in Whiting, Indiana. This is for an article by the Better Government Association (link: <http://www.bettergov.org/>).

My primary questions:

Following its major upgrade of the refinery, BP estimates that it will process 280,000 barrels of heavy crude oil a day. The March discharge into Lake Michigan raises questions about the safety and oversight of the plant, particularly as it relates to pollutants in the water. Will Indiana regulators continue to provide the lion's share of the refinery's oversight? Will US EPA provide additional monitoring or oversight?

Please help me understand what safeguards are in place to protect Lake Michigan, the source of drinking water for millions of Illinois residents, from pollution discharged from industrial sites in Indiana.

To what extent does the US EPA have direct oversight of the plant as it pertains to the safety of Lake Michigan?

I understand the Coast Guard will possibly level a fine and intends to recommend corrective action as it pertains to the BP oil spill in March. Will US EPA simply allow the Coast Guard to take care of the matter without issuing its own order or penalty?

I'd like to talk to Ms. Hedman this week. If that's not possible, we can arrange for a time next week.

Separately, I'd like to know how many people are employed by the US EPA in Chicago. How many people are assigned to oversee the BP refinery in Whiting? Does the US EPA keep files of inspection reports of wastewater from the refinery or does Indiana handle all those compliance matters?

My contact info:

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I appreciate your help with this issue.

Best,

Brett

On Tue, Apr 22, 2014 at 5:03 PM, Arcaute, Francisco <Arcaute.Francisco@epa.gov> wrote:

Thanks for your interest in the US EPA.

Please list your questions, deadline, and contact information.

Thanks

Francisco Arcaute

US EPA press office

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